IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier listings and all earlier versions.

1. - 124. (Canceled)

125. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~124~~ 137, further comprising a sending unit for sending the coordinate data calculated by said calculation unit.

126. and 127. (Canceled)

128. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~124~~ 137, wherein the plurality of vector data ~~includes~~ can include vector data indicating a straight line and vector data indicating a curve of second or higher degree for one outline point in the same character space.

129. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~124~~ 137, further comprising an output unit adapted to output a pattern formed based on the coordinate data calculated by said calculation unit.

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130.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 129, wherein said output unit includes a printer.

131.   (Canceled)

132.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~124~~ 137, wherein said storage unit stores degree information indicating degree of a function of vector data for the x direction and the y direction independently.

133.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 129, wherein ~~said~~ the degree information includes an information indicating that coordinate data is constant regardless of the change of weight value.

134. - 136. (Canceled)

137.   (New) An outline processing apparatus, comprising:

a storage unit configured to store coordinate values of outline points of a character corresponding to a character code, and a plurality of vector data corresponding to each of the outline points, wherein each of vector data indicates moving amounts in x and y directions of the corresponding outline point, and wherein at least one of outline points has different vector data in conjunction with weight value in the same character size;

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a receiving unit configured to receive a character code and a weight value;

a reading unit configured to read out coordinate values of outline points corresponding to the received character code from said storage unit;

an acquisition unit configured to acquire vector data corresponding to the coordinate values and the weight value read by said reading unit; and

a calculation unit configured to convert the coordinate values read by said reading unit based on the vector data acquired by said acquisition unit.

138.   (New) An outline processing method, comprising the steps of:

storing, in a storage unit, coordinate values of outline points of a character corresponding to a character code, and a plurality of vector data corresponding to each of the outline points, wherein each of vector data indicates moving amounts in x and y directions of the corresponding outline point, and wherein at least one of outline points has different vector data in conjunction with weight value in the same character size;

receiving a character code and a weight value;

reading out coordinate values of outline points corresponding to the received character code from the storage unit;

acquiring vector data corresponding to the coordinate values and the weight value read in said reading step; and

converting the coordinate values read in said reading step based on the vector data acquired in said acquiring step.

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139. (New) A computer program product, comprising computer-readable codes adapted to cause a programmable computer to perform an outline method, said method comprising the steps of:

storing, in a storage unit, coordinate values of outline points of a character corresponding to a character code, and a plurality of vector data corresponding to each of the outline points, wherein each of vector data indicates moving amounts in x and y directions of the corresponding outline point, and wherein at least one of outline points has different vector data in conjunction with weight value in the same character size;

receiving a character code and a weight value;

reading out coordinate values of outline points corresponding to the received character code from the storage unit;

acquiring vector data corresponding to the coordinate values and the weight value read in said reading step; and

converting the coordinate values read in said reading step based on the vector data acquired in said acquiring step.

140. (New) A computer-readable memory medium, storing computer-readable codes adapted to cause a programmable computer to perform an outline method, said method comprising the steps of:

storing, in a storage unit, coordinate values of outline points of a character corresponding to a character code, and a plurality of vector data corresponding to each of the

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outline points, wherein each of vector data indicates moving amounts in x and y directions of the corresponding outline point, and wherein at least one of outline points has different vector data in conjunction with weight value in the same character size;

receiving a character code and a weight value;

reading out coordinate values of outline points corresponding to the received character code from the storage unit;

acquiring vector data corresponding to the coordinate values and the weight value read in said reading step; and

converting the coordinate values read in said reading step based on the vector data acquired in said acquiring step.

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